



MINUTES BOARD OF LIVESTOCK MEETING

November 13 & 14, 2012
Livestock Conference Room 319
301 N Roberts
Helena, MT 59601

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jan French, Chair, cattle producer
Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

Brett DeBruycker, cattle producer
John Lehfeltdt, sheep producer
Linda Nielsen, cattle producer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Waldner, swine producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turcotte, Milk & Egg Bureau
Gary Hamel, Meat Inspection
Dr Bill Layton, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer

George Harris, Centralized Services
Steve Merritt, Public Information
Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Sherry Rust, minute taker

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS WS
Dennis McDonald, Montana Cattleman Assn.

Jim Brown, Montana Wool Growers Association
Pat Murdo, Legislative Services

1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Board Communications:

Linda Nielsen

- quite a bit of snow, a lot of ice
- calf market was down but the cow market is still really good
- bison issue is still the talk of northeast Montana

Stan Boone

- got some snow, would like to get more, area was dry, dry, dry
- happy to have snow
- we got through the fire season without a fire

Jan French

- got quite a bit of heavy, wet snow
- a lot of people waited a long time to seed
- pasture is short, hay is gone
- prices have been good
- calf weights from my place were good- a little higher
- many producers reporting that calf weights were down

John Lehfeltdt

- there is some upward movement in sheep
- wool market was up
- little snow



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Brett DeBruycker

- 6 to 7 inches of snow
- grain market dropping
- lot of cattle in the feedlot

Jeff Lewis

- Bitterroots not smoky anymore
- dairy prices continue to climb and fee is leveling off
- not much snow

Approval of Minutes:

Jeff Lewis moved to approve the September minutes as presented. Stan Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Interim Authorizations and Activities:

There were no interim activities.

Executive Officer Reports:

Jeff Lewis moved to approve the executive officer reports as presented. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Dr Bill Layton

- Accreditation
 - application was completed and sent in November 2 for review
 - afternoon of December 4 the board and any other interested parties may address the review board - imperative board of livestock members attend
 - Errol Rice may be invited to address some options on which way to go
- Building Update
 - \$15 to \$17 million investment
 - bond issue is the long term plan
 - need a plan b/plan c
 - spoke with Errol from Stockgrowers
 - basically this is a funding issue
 - need industry buy-in, which we have
 - providing alternative options (privatization, etc.)
- Chairman Jan French presented Dr Layton with a 20 year service pin.

Centralized Services, George Harris

- FY 2013 First Quarter Budget Status Report
 - reviewed budget status of each program to show department expenditures against appropriated authority
 - Schweitzer budget comes out November 15. Governor elect Bullock has until December 15 to do an amended budget to go to the legislature



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- State Special Revenue Update FY 2013
 - per capita statements went out around Halloween
 - have received \$600,000 so far
- Milk Control Bureau
 - new Bureau Chief is Pattie Thompson
 - Roy Hemry has retired
 - looking at replacing Roy and filling Pattie's former position
 - MCB has an .5 FTE that may not be needed in that area, looking at options
- Board of Horse Racing 2014-15 Budget Proposal and Update
 - review shows that in general MBOHR have no cash investments
 - there will be a tremendous reduction in authority
 - staffing (2.5 FTE) may be reduced also - executive office 1 FTE and .5 to cover live horseracing personnel
- Information Technology
 - staff of three working frantically to complete new project and programs while putting out the daily fires of staff computer issues
 - Jim Newhall continues updates on LIMS and completes administrative duties for the IT area
 - Conrad Flynn and Eric Anderson (high end programmers) traveling across the state to address computer installations and breakdown issues while taking general "need help" calls from department staff
 - could possibly better use the MCB .5 FTE position (lower wage base) to hire an IT support person to take the daily help requests allowing programmers to complete their project in a more timely manner

2:40 p.m. Recess

2:50 p.m. Reconvene

USDA Wildlife Services, Kraig Glazier

- Helicopters
 - the department's 95 Tango is about 15 to 20 hours out for an overhaul
 - will take about 6 weeks
 - cost about \$140,000
 - do have funding in place for this
 - may pull engine parts from the crashed unit as replacement during overhaul
- Predators
 - coyote numbers are up
 - grizzly count is up along the western front -even out on the plains
 - extremely high year with lions
 - black bears counts are average to high
 - wolves



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- first official wolf kill confirmed in Gallatin County
- 32% depredation increase from the year before
- total cattle killed 101 vs. 109 last year
- sheep 51 vs. 44 last year
- dogs 5 this year
- wolf hunt
 - 106 wolves harvested last year up 56% from the year before
 - 59 so far this year per Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Wolf EA is out in print
 - board is encouraged to respond

Public Information, Steve Merritt

- presented the completed Trich guideline and will post on website
- new newsletter for local inspectors sent out last week
 - good response
- also working on:
 - equine ownership handout
 - display for the annual Stockgrowers meeting
- Chair Jan French presented Steve with a 5 year service pin

Meat Inspection, Gary Hamel

- completing a self-assessment audit on the meat inspection program
- revisited the owner of the plant where inspection was suspended due to owner conflict with inspectors
 - he is willing to come back under inspection
 - promoted understanding of no need to harass state inspectors
- currently 5 plants are waiting to come under inspection
 - department is waiting for staff budgets to be able to inspect the pending plants

Milk & Egg, Dan Turcotte

- focusing back on some of the smaller plants
 - wanting to expand products
 - bureau involved by providing ideas and expertise for plant consideration
- egg grading is going well
 - presently maxed out on running the grader
 - 10 hour inspection days 4 days a week
 - add 1.5 average hours to per-inspect the plant and meeting with plant manager
 - with more producers ready to come into the plant will be adding another inspector eventually
- aflatoxin products have not become an issue in Montana per tests being done



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- Dairigold ran tests for it in Montana and also in Western states milk
- 12 day rule
 - Clyde will have it briefed and before the judge before the end of the month
 - the judge can decide on the briefs or require full testimony
 - Clyde's opinion is that if the judge decides for the department Coremark will take it to the Montana Supreme Court

Governor- elect Steve Bullock stopped by to meet the board.

Producer Organization Updates

- Montana Cattleman Association, Dennis McDonald
 - brought up the issue of county attorneys not pursuing brand violations
 - has requested the Attorney General to put on a seminar to brief county attorneys on the complexities of brand law violations

Public Comment

4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

8:00 a.m. WEDNESDAY

CALL TO ORDER

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Jeffery Lewis, dairy producer
Stan Boone, cattle producer

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John Lehfeltdt, sheep producer
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BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ed Waldner, swine producer

STAFF PRESENT:

Dr Zaluski, Animal Health
Steve Merritt, Public Information
Tahnee Szymanski, Animal Health
Sherry Rust, minute taker

George Harris, Centralized Services
Marty Clark, Brands Enforcement
Christian Mackay, Executive Officer

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Kraig Glazier, USDA APHIS WS

Dr Tom Linfield, USDA APHIS AVIC



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Brands Enforcement, John Grainger

- Estray ARM
 - proposed to recoup some of the cost of gathering, holding at the yard, investigating, advertising and auctioning estrays
 - presented worksheet showing average cost could be up to \$400
 - provides authority to give away or put down unsold animals if needed

John Lehfeldt moved to authorize publication of proposed rule changes for comment as presented. Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried with Brett DeBruycker voting no.

- Aerial Hunting ARM change
 - proposed to establish a one year fee to coincide with FAA qualifications
 - simplifying the rule

Jeff Lewis moved to authorize the suggested changes. Linda Nielsen seconded. The motion carried.

- Brand recording audit
 - received the legislative audit follow up
 - have implemented all their suggested changes
 - do not expect an audit 10 years from now
- Brand Policy Updates
 - Cort Jensen, attorney, does not think certified paperwork is any longer necessary for completing brand transfers and applications
 - certified copies required for land transfers only as of the last legislature
 - suggested doing away with the certified request - making the transfer process less onerous for producers

Animal Health, Dr Zaluski

- DSA Program Review
 - review will go out to all the other states so it is important that we did well
 - the review and elk working group:
 1. advocated more outreach (FWP to go forward)
 2. late elk hunts to facilitate redistribution of elk
 3. continue elk surveillance
 - Christian Mackay said kudos to Dr Zaluski. The reviewers were with staffing that includes the dedicated vet/assistant team approach and with Nye Howey and John Grainger displaying the tracking capabilities for DSA animals
- Action Item # 1 DSA Requirements
 - reviewed suggested ARM rule changes
 1. eliminate exemption for animals going to slaughter because the MCI program is being scaled back so we cannot rely on all cattle being tested at slaughter



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2. add test on DSA breeding cattle of any age sold or leaving the DSA - this rule resembles one in place in Wyoming.

John Lehfeltdt moved to authorize publication of the proposed rule for public comment.

Jeff Lewis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item # 2 Replacement of Official Order on Identification Requirements for Sheep and Goats
 - proposal will remove Official Order 62-ID and replace it with an ARM rule
 - will also update present inconsistent ARM rules and make them consistent with current policy

Linda Nielsen moved to authorize publication of the proposed rule for public comment.

Brett DeBruycker seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- Action Item # 3 Out of State Travel Request
 - Dr Zaluski received a request while attending the USAHA meeting for Dr Szymanski to speak on Q fever and share her experience with the recent Montana outbreak involving livestock and humans and how Montana dealt with it.
 - South Dakota will pay all travel costs
 - December 11 through the 13th

Jeff Lewis moved to approve the out of state travel as requested. Stan Boone seconded. the motion carried unanimously.

- Trich program update
 - two new cases from fall testing near Lewistown
 - producer in the Snowys is concerned with fence line contact

Public Comment

NEXT BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 14 AND 15, 2013

Chair Jan French reminded administrators to complete their reports to the board in a timely manner because the board does read them and it keeps the board apprised of what is happening in the department

9:30 a.m. Adjourned

Jan French, Chair